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QUERIES AND REPLIES

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REPLY TO W. N.—Use Soehnle's spirit varnish. It has the quality of lasting through the term of an ordinary exhibition, after the termination of which the picture may be varnished at any time with any of the ordinary varnishes. It may also be applied on recently painted surfaces before the colour is dry. You will find it very useful.

REPLY TO B. P.—You will find a very good collection of water-colours by De Wint at the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington. Some interesting examples have recently been added.

REPLY TO J. A. W.—So much depends on the state of the picture, its period, and as to its being a characteristic example of the master; that it is impossible to advise without inspection. You should consult an expert, such as Mr. Graves of 6, Pall Mall, or Mr. Colnaghi, 13, Pall Mall East, London.

REPLY TO H. B. B.—Consult, first of all, the little handbook on pen-and-ink drawing published by Messrs. Winsor and Newton, Rathbone Place, W., and 'Hints on Drawing for Process Reproduction,' by C. J. Vine, published by Lechertier Barbe, Limited, 95, Jermyn Street, W.; both issued at 1s. Having mastered these you may find hints in several books on drawing; a list of which we will send you if you should require them. But the best way to get the knowledge you seek is to attend one of the schools where black-and-white drawing is taught. You will find some in our advertisement columns. We do not know a periodical devoted to the subject.

REPLY TO J. C. S.—Mr. Whitworth Wallis, F.S.A., Director of the Corporation Art Gallery, Birmingham, is a good judge on the subject, and would, we feel sure, be glad to see any good picture by the master you name.

REPLY TO R. K. F.—Messrs. Cornellissen and Son, 22, Great Queen Street, W.C., or Messrs. Lechertier Barbe Ltd., 95, Jermyn Street, W., would be able to get the colours for you.

REPLY TO L. L. R.—Apply to Mr. Charles Armstrong, 29, Mysore Road, Lavender Hill, S.W.

QUERY NO. 216.—Can you give me the name of a school or of a teacher for the study of lace designing?—A. S.

QUERY NO. 217.—I should be obliged if you would tell me the meaning of "bi-manual" work and "blobbing" as art terms?—H. E. B.

QUERY NO. 218.—*Wedded*. Can any reader give me authentic information regarding the picture thus named? Is the man biting the woman's little finger (an ancient, Greek, or Pompeian custom, I believe), or is he caressing it? The muscles of the forearm being at tension seem to point to the former.—AUSTRALIA.

QUERY NO. 219.—I should be glad to know particulars of the South Kensington examinations, when the next 'Freehand' will take place, and to whom application should be made for entering names?—C. C.

QUERY NO. 220.—Will you kindly give me the name (with publisher and price) of a book of instructions suitable for a beginner in oil painting?—A. G.

QUERY NO. 221.—I have heard of some new specially made oil colours. Could you inform me of the place at which they may be procured?—G. F. S.

QUERY NO. 222.—The Royal College of Art requires one to pass an examination before gaining admission to

the classes. I shall be grateful if you will give me the names of schools (if there are any) where one could be coached to pass the examination?—J. J. H.

QUERY NO. 223.—I am anxious to buy some good casts from the low relief works by Donatello, Della Robbia, and other Italian sculptors, and should be pleased if you would give me some information to help me in obtaining them?—A. R. W.

CORRESPONDENCE

A SOUTH KENSINGTON SCANDAL.

To the Editor of THE ARTIST.

SIR,—The recent metamorphosis of the Science and Art Department into the Board of Education has been marked by what appears to be an unwarrantable act of injustice.

Formerly the students at the South Kensington School of Art were composed of (a) holders of County Council and other scholarships tenable at that school and (b) of some 50 other students, who, having passed the requisite entrance examination, were admitted for the complete course on payment of fees.

However, on a recent date, the paying students were informed by the Board that unless they could pass an examination which would very shortly be set them they would have to leave.

No details as to the examination were obtainable by most of those concerned, and it was not until the evening before the examination that it leaked out that the unfortunate students would be required to pass in subjects which they had never studied and had never been required or advised to study.

Of the six subjects set few of the students had any knowledge of more than two, and to show how seriously the examination was taken I may state that the results were published on the day following that on which the papers were completed.

A foregone conclusion was justified, for only 29 of the 50 bold enough to attempt the papers are known to have passed.

That some of these students were every whit as able as their fellows who have not been subjected to this farcical examination is proved by the fact that they have carried off prizes when pitted in competition against the scholars.

Among the banished students were some who had already completed several years of their course of studies at South Kensington and some who had come from far corners of the kingdom to benefit by the instruction to be gained there, and had made sacrifices to complete their arrangements accordingly. All of them, regardless of their attainments, have been cut adrift, practically without a day's notice and without being given a chance of providing against the catastrophe.

Whatever course the Board thought best to adopt in the future, these young men should have been allowed to complete their course of studies on the terms under which they started. Rumours were current that the Board was desirous of ridding the school of these students, but apparently they dared not do so without a pretext, so this dishonourable trick of the impossible examination was resorted to and the Board of Education starts its work with a tarnished character.

FRANK L. EMANUEL.

Savage Club.